

problem of the woman in industry is simply to find those places for which she is best suited. Night work is less efficient than day work. Shorter hours lead toward an optimum of industrial efficiency as gauged by output. Frequent rest periods have the same effect. The use of physiologic and psychologic tests in selecting workers for certain jobs opens up a wide field. Self-limitation of work by the worker presents certain problems in this study and the worker should work up to his physiologic capacity, which in turn, should not be exceeded.

Such a discussion as Lee has provided, shows once more the strategic position of the doctor in industry and what a virgin field of industrial development awaits the development of industrial physiology.

HOSPITAL SERVICE.

We take pleasure and pride in offering to our readers a new section devoted to hospital service. It is only through the instrumentality of thoroughly equipped and organized hospitals that medicine can be even approximately applied in its fulness.

Well trained physicians and surgeons of many communities have felt the heavy handicap that is placed upon their efficiency by inadequate hospital facilities. The practical value of the hospital hints which will appear from month to month in the columns of the Journal we are assured will be welcomed and appreciated by all progressive physicians.

A hospital with the minimum requirements and organized along the lines set forth in the article on Hospital Betterment in California on page 29 of this issue of the Journal tells the story of the standards of the medical men of the community, and also reflects the interest of the residents in the health of the community. In a community where we find a good hospital we know that medical standards are maintained. It follows as night the day that better hospitals produce better medicine.

DOES INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE PAY?

Under this title, the Monthly Labor Review for October, 1919, summarizes a study by H. E. Mock¹ of the development, scope and benefits of industrial medicine and surgery. Emphasis is laid on the economic value to the employer of a system of physical examinations of applicants for work before employment. Physical selection of workers for the specific work they are best fitted to do is important not only to the employer, however, but also to the employee.

Mock reviews some of the sources of waste arising out of employment of the physically unfit as follows: 1. The unfit who later must be discharged because of inability to do the work; 2. The unfit who gradually lose efficiency because of physical inaptitude or partial disability; 3. The unfit who are subject to a high accident rate; 4. Those who receive undue disability from accidents due to pre-existing physical defects or disease; 5. Those who are afflicted with some con-

tagious disease, including tuberculosis and venereal disease; 6. Those who are mentally deficient.

Such an analysis shows clearly the protection to the worker from such pre-employment physical examination. The reduction of labor turn-over effected by this means is in itself a factor of considerable economic saving. It is certainly incumbent, as Mock advises, on every company surgeon, safety engineer and welfare worker to "show that the benefits to the employer are in direct ratio to the thoroughness and completeness of the plan which he adopts for the conservation of the health of his employees."

Editorial Comment

Some cases of patent malaria can be diagnosed by a rise of temperature and the appearance of the plasmodia in the circulating blood after the hypodermic injection of one milligram of adrenalin. This reaction may appear up to two days after the injection and may require two injections for its production. A negative result does not disprove the presence of malaria.

In a recent review of current work and opinion on the thymus gland, W. E. Blatz¹ of Toronto, comes to the conclusion that it is impossible to attribute any definite function to this organ and that it probably is not a gland of internal secretion. He quotes E. R. Hoskins to the effect that "the thymus functions as a lymphoid organ in infancy and childhood when a large number of lymphocytes and leucocytes are needed to combat infections." According to this opinion, the thymus resembles such lymphoid organs as the tonsils which undergo involution when no longer needed physiologically.

Recognizing that the newspaper ads of quack specialists and "cures" for venereal diseases were one of the gravest obstacles in the campaign for the eradication of venereal disease, the U. S. Public Health Service sent a request to 20,000 advertising media in the United States requesting them to discontinue this class of advertising. All but 140 of this number have definitely agreed to do so. Most of the better newspapers had already found it good business to stop this class of advertising. All of them now recognize it and venereal disease "cures" and "specialists" now are a sure indication that the paper or journal carrying them is behind the times and unfit for decent circulation.

It is a sign of the times that physicians as a class and as individuals are awaking to their responsibility in human conservation. We are saving this and saving that, and fighting the H. C. L. with economy and production. All very well. How about saving human life and prolonging it? The high cost of dying keeps pace with other costs, and death and illness create a sum total of economic, social and moral costs which is mountainous in its disastrous effects on the sons of men. Hence it is well that we should set disease prevention before disease cure, and healthful living before unnecessary dying.

¹ Jour. Indus. Hyg., Sept., 1919.